

VII.—*Remarks on the Acanthizæ of Tasmania.*

By Colonel W. V. LEGGE, R.A., F.Z.S.

THE largest species of the so-called "Acanthizas" of Tasmania is the *Acanthiza magna* of Gould, figured as a *Sericornis* in his Supplement, and described later in his 'Handbook,' vol. i. p. 373, as an *Acanthiza*. A comparison of this species with its Tasmanian allies, the members of the genus *Acanthiza*, and with *Sericornis humilis*, has led me to the conclusion that the structure of its bill and wing warrant its separation from these latter genera, and I therefore propose a new genus for its reception, which I call *Acanthornis*. The bill in *Acanthornis* is distinctly curved throughout, and is also laterally compressed, while the bills in *Acanthiza* and *Sericornis* are straight and wide at the base, and less compressed than in the former. The wing in *Acanthornis* is also rounded, and the primaries curved, forming a typically hollow Timeliine wing; the second and third quills are proportionately shorter than the same in *Acanthiza*, and the fourth is likewise shorter and not sub-equal with the fifth, as in the latter genus. In structure the wing of the bird in question resembles that of *Sericornis*, which is hollow and thoroughly Timeliine. The following diagnoses of the three genera show their different characteristics :—

Acanthiza.—Bill short and straight, with the commissure straight from the nostrils to the tip. Wing rather pointed, with the quills straight, the first half the length of the fourth, and the second subequal with the eighth. Tail with a subterminal black band. Tarsus distinctly plated.

Acanthornis.—Bill longer, curved throughout, the commissure curved from base to tip, compressed laterally between the position of the nostrils and the tip. Wing rounded and concave, with the first quill half the length of the fifth, which is the longest; the second shorter than any of the inner primaries; the third considerably shorter than the fourth, which is less

than the fifth and longest. Tail with a subterminal dark band. Tarsus covered with a single plate.

Sericornis.—Bill longer than in *Acanthiza*, straight, the commissure straight from gape to tip. Wing rounded and concave, the wing-formula the same as in *Acanthornis*. Tail shorter than in the two preceding genera, without any dark bar. Tarsus covered with a single plate, or with almost obsolete broad scales.

Acanthornis magna is not uncommon on the slopes of Mount Wellington, Tasmania, and about the edges of forests on other southern mountains in the island, but from its retiring nature escapes observation, and its distribution is consequently not well worked out as yet. In a future note I hope to be able to say something of its habits and to describe its nest and eggs.

VIII.—*Ornithological Notes of a Tour in Cyprus in 1887.*

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(Plate II.)

PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH well aware that the author of the "Cruise of the 'Marchesa'" stands in no need of any introduction to those interested in ornithology, I may perhaps be allowed to mention that the collecting tour in Cyprus described in the following article was undertaken by Dr. Guillemard on my behalf.

I visited the southern and eastern coasts of the island in the spring of 1875 in the yacht 'Zara,' but owing to many delays on our voyage from Marseilles, the uncertainty concerning anchorage, and other causes, I had not much time to spare before the great heats of summer, and my rambles were confined to short distances from the sea. Soon after the British occupation of the island in 1878, I sent out Mr. W. Pearse, who had been with Mr. Danford in Asia Minor, to collect for me in Cyprus; but, on the whole, this